

# Record Specifications

**PedNSS User's Guide**



**August 2004**

The PedNSS transaction (data) file that contributors submit to CDC on a monthly or quarterly basis is comprised of multiple records, which in turn are comprised of multiple data fields. Each record contains information about an individual child. This *PedNSS User's Guide* section describes PedNSS field and record types, minimum field requirements for PedNSS participation, as well as PedNSS record specifications, i.e. the position of fields on the PedNSS record.

## PedNSS Field Types

**Critical Fields:** Fields that must be reported and that will result in records being rejected if they are missing or invalid (mis-coded).

**Core Fields:** Fields that are considered extremely important for maternal and child monitoring. If missing, they will not affect record acceptance by CDC, but they will result in exclusion from some or all national and state PNSS tables.

**Supplemental Fields:** Fields that are considered important for maternal and child nutrition monitoring and which states are encouraged to submit. If missing they will not affect record acceptance by CDC, but they will result in exclusion from some national and state PNSS tables.

**Contributor Use Fields:** Fields that can be used for codes that are unique to and defined by the individual PNSS contributor (i.e., state, U.S. territory, or tribal government) after consultation with CDC.

## Minimum Field Requirements for PedNSS Participation

The minimal or vital fields that must be reported in order for CDC to process PedNSS records and generate state tables include State, Substate, Date of Visit, Child's Alphanumeric ID, and Date of Birth. *Plus at least one of the following three themes of health indicators must be reported:*

- Anthropometry Theme: Height—English or Metric, Weight—English or Metric
- Hematology Theme: Hemoglobin or Hematocrit
- Breastfeeding Theme: Currently Breastfed, Ever Breastfed, Length of Time Breastfed

## PedNSS Record Types

**Screening Records:** Records containing information from a clinic visit when the child receives a standard health and nutrition screening or assessment (during which anthropometric, hematologic, and other nutrition-related measures are made and reported). This includes routine child health periodicity visits and WIC certification visits.

**Update Visit Records:** Records containing information from a clinic visit when some anthropometric or hematologic measures are made or breastfeeding status is reassessed.

The type of PedNSS record is designated in PedNSS field 6, Record Type.

Code S = Screening Visit  
Code U = Update Visit

Additional guidance for contributors of WIC data on preparing the PedNSS transaction file is presented on page 1–6.

## PedNSS Record Specifications

This layout specifies the data field positions on the PedNSS record and *partially* explains the field codes (see the next *PedNSS User's Guide* section, "Field Definitions, Codes, and Edits" for complete explanations).

When fields are provided for both metric and English measurements, only one measurement is needed; the other should be left blank. The same is true for hemoglobin and hematocrit measurements; only one is needed. Any field that is never reported by your state, territory, or tribal government (hereafter referred to as "state") may also be left blank.

Field Seq	Size	Columns or Positions	Field Name	Type <sup>1</sup>	Field Priority <sup>2</sup>	Notes
<b>RECORD DESCRIPTORS</b>						
1	2	1–2	State	A/N	Cr	State abbreviations
2	1	3	Substate	A/N	Cr	Assigned by Contributor and CDC
3	9	4–12	Clinic/School	A/N	C	Assigned by Contributor
4	5	13–17	Zip Code	N	S	Five digit Post Office code of child's residence
5	1	18	Source of Data	N	C	See Field Codes
6	1	19	Record Type	A/N	C	S = Screening visit U = Update visit Blank or 9 = Unknown
<b>DEMOGRAPHIC INDICATORS</b>						
7	8	20–27	Date of Visit	N	Cr	Actual date: MMDDYYYY
8	60	28–87	Child's Alphanumeric ID	A/N	Cr	Consistently right or left justify; pad entries < 30 characters with blanks. Leave the last 30 positions blank. Encrypt full SSN and client name using CDC software.
9	8	88–95	Date of Birth	N	Cr	Actual date: MMDDYYYY
10	1	96	Sex	N	Cr	1 = Male 2 = Female Blank or 9 = Unknown
11	6	97–102	Race/Ethnicity <i>or</i>	N	C	See Field Codes
12	3	103–105	WIC Race/Ethnicity	N	C	See Field Codes

<sup>1</sup> A/N = alphanumeric; N = numeric.

<sup>2</sup> Cr = Critical field (record rejected if not reported); C = Core field; S = Supplemental field;  
CU = Contributor Use field.

Field Seq	Size	Columns or Positions	Field Name	Type <sup>1</sup>	Field Priority <sup>2</sup>	Notes
<b>DEMOGRAPHIC INDICATORS (CONT.)</b>						
13	2	106–107	Contributor-Specific Race/Ethnicity	N	S	See Field Codes
14	2	108–109	Household Size	N	C	Number in household Blanks or 99 = Unknown
15	4	110–113	Monthly Household Income	N	C	0000–8000 actual \$ 8888 = Adjunctively eligible Blanks or 9999 = Unknown
16	1	114	Migrant Status	N	S	1 = Migrant 2 = Non-Migrant Blank or 9 = Unknown
<b>PROGRAM PARTICIPATION</b>						
17	1	115	WIC	N	S	1 = Yes 2 = No Blank or 9 = Unknown
18	1	116	Food Stamps	N	S	1 = Yes 2 = No Blank or 9 = Unknown
19	1	117	Medicaid	N	S	1 = Yes 2 = No Blank or 9 = Unknown
20	1	118	TANF	N	S	1 = Yes 2 = No Blank or 9 = Unknown
<b>HEALTH INDICATORS</b>						
21	4	119–122	Birthweight—English or	N	C	<i>Report for children &lt; 12 months of age</i> Pounds to nearest whole ounce 00–98 = Pounds 00–15 = Ounces Blanks or 9999 = Unknown
22	4	123–126	Birthweight—Metric	N	C	<i>Report for children &lt; 12 months of age</i> Grams to nearest whole gram Blanks or 9999 = Unknown
23	3	127–129	Height—English or	N	C	Inches to nearest 1/8 inch Blanks or 999 = Unknown
24	4	130–133	Height—Metric	N	C	Centimeters to nearest tenth Blanks or 9999 = Unknown

<sup>1</sup> A/N = alphanumeric; N = numeric.

<sup>2</sup> Cr = Critical field (record rejected if not reported); C = Core field; S = Supplemental field;  
CU = Contributor Use field.

Field Seq	Size	Columns or Positions	Field Name	Type <sup>1</sup>	Field Priority <sup>2</sup>	Notes
<b>HEALTH INDICATORS (CONT.)</b>						
25	4	134–137	Weight—English <i>or</i>	N	C	Weight to nearest ¼ pound Blanks or 9999 = Unknown
26	4	138–141	Weight—Metric	N	C	Kilograms to nearest tenth Blanks or 9999 = Unknown
27	8	142–149	Date of Height/Weight Measure	N	C	Actual date: MMDDYYYY
28	3	150–152	Hemoglobin <i>or</i>	N	C	g/dL to nearest tenth Blanks or 999 = Unknown
29	3	153–155	Hematocrit	N	C	Percent to nearest tenth Blanks or 999 = Unknown
30	8	156–163	Date of Hemoglobin/Hematocrit Measure	N	C	Actual date: MMDDYYYY
31	1	164	Currently Breastfed		C	<i>Report for children &lt; 24 months of age</i> 1 = Yes, currently breastfed 2 = No, not currently breastfed Blank or 9 = Unknown
32	1	165	Ever Breastfed	N	C	<i>Report for children &lt; 24 months of age who are not currently breastfed</i> 1 = Yes 2 = No Blank or 9 = Unknown or not applicable; infant is currently breastfed
33	2	166–167	Length of Time Breastfed	N	C	<i>Report for children &lt; 24 months of age who are not currently breastfed but who were ever breastfed</i> 00–95 = Weeks breastfed 96 = 96+ weeks breastfed Blanks or 99 = Unknown or not applicable; infant is currently breastfed or never breastfed
34	8	168–175	Date of Most Recent Breastfeeding Response	N	C	<i>Report for children &lt; 24 months of age</i> Actual date: MMDDYYYY

<sup>1</sup> A/N = alphanumeric; N = numeric.

<sup>2</sup> Cr = Critical field (record rejected if not reported); C = Core field; S = Supplemental field;  
CU = Contributor Use field.

Field Seq Size	Columns or Positions	Field Name	Type <sup>1</sup>	Field Priority <sup>2</sup>	Notes	
<b>HEALTH INDICATORS (CONT.)</b>						
35	2	176–177	Introduction to Supplementary Feeding	N	S	<i>Report for children &lt; 24 months of age who were ever breastfed</i> 00–30 = Age in weeks at introduction 31 = 31+ weeks 77 = Not fed anything other than breast milk Blanks or 99=Unknown or not applicable; child never breastfed
<b>BEHAVIORAL INDICATORS</b>						
36	1	178	TV Viewing		S	<i>Report for children ≥ 24 months of age</i> 0 = > 0 and < 1 hour/day 1 = 1 hour/day 2–4 = hours/day 5 = 5+ hours/day 6 = None Blank or 9 = Unknown
37	1	179	Household Smoking		S	1 = Yes 2 = No Blank or 9 = Unknown
<b>FUTURE EXPANSION</b>						
38	30	180–209	Future Expansion	A/N		Not used
<b>CONTRIBUTOR USE</b>						
39		210+	Contributor Use	A/N	CU	Reserved for contributor

<sup>1</sup> A/N = alphanumeric; N = numeric.

<sup>2</sup> Cr = Critical field (record rejected if not reported); C = Core field; S = Supplemental field;  
CU = Contributor Use field.

# Preparation of the PedNSS Transaction File

## WIC Record Submission to the PedNSS

Contributors submitting WIC data to the PedNSS need to have the ability to distinguish between records that contain standard certification data (Record Type = 'S') from records that contain between-certification data (Record Type = 'U' for update visit), as defined in the PedNSS Field Definitions, Codes, and Edits for field 6, Record Type.

WIC contributors are encouraged to do the following:

1. Submit certification (Record Type = 'S') records to the PedNSS.
2. Submit between-certification records (Record Type = 'U') to the PedNSS if they can assure that these records strictly contain new data (new height, weight, Hb/Hct, and/or breastfeeding data). Such records should not be submitted if they contain data that have been previously submitted to the PedNSS. These records may contain missing data. For example, they may contain breastfeeding data, but may be missing height, weight, and Hb/Hct data.
3. Submit a record(s) with updated breastfeeding data to the PedNSS when infants are between 6 and 12 months of age, to maximize completeness of breastfeeding data for infants up to 6 months of age (Record Type = 'U' unless the record contains all the standard certification data in which case Record Type = 'S').